



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING

Thursday, April 30 2015

Town Hall- 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume
Michael Mackin
Colleen Shapiro
Brendan Grady-absent
Heather Sroka

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen

Student Representative

Sophia Holman

Guests

Reuse Committee Members

Call to Order: Dr. Gregory Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Joint Meeting discussion with Reuse Committee: Discussion of two sketches of options for parking arrangements were provided by Mr. McQuaid, Dr. Berthiaume suggested procuring an RFP would be wise in order to show what the most desirable lot would be that would be the most marketable for Town use- this will be the responsibility of the town Reuse Committee to obtain. Reuse Committee would like to define plot lines for the property before the RFP is obtained. If the decision is to change the plot lines, the School Building Committee would have to first seek approval from the MSBA, as any change in original drawings requires the MSBA's approval. The Reuse committee would prefer only changing this once. Public comment from Mr. David Rodgers who proposed the demolition and removal of the T.C. Passios Building and stated that the committee would not have to seek prior approval of the MSBA for that. Mr. Mackin expressed that there is an owner's contingency in the MS/HS project that if they are removing the high school it may be beneficial to remove TCP as well at the same time. The School Building Committee is the one that makes the final decision per the owners contingency. It was clarified that the MSBA plan does not include the Brooks House property. Development options asked to Mr. McQuaid. Could potentially be a mixed use village center incorporating professional offices, restaurants, small businesses with residential spaces on top of property. This could create the potential for internships and after school work opportunities for students. There was a question as to whether the building would need to come down to construct such a business development. Response was that would need more information and the potential developer would make that decision. It is why Reuse Committee recommends decision of plot lines from the beginning. If removal is decided, plot lines could be moved wherever chosen as it is not bound to a certain design anymore. Reuse Committee discussed that if proposed Village

District passes at Town meeting the property will become much more marketable, in turn providing competition or better zoning to bring in potential developers. Zoning right now is very restricted in parameters and not as marketable for a developer.

School Committee members were asked to decide whether they want to continue to move forward in giving property to the Town, and then discuss decision with the reuse committee and planning board. Dr. Berthiaume suggested having the School Building Committee discuss, and seeing what happens at Town Meeting. Mr. Mackin explained limit of work lines through parking lot. Parking spaces close to Passios are part of the plan. Will clarify this with architects. Reuse will make a formal request, will wait for town meeting, Mr. Mackin will clarify two things, what is the project limit base, and what current condition is concerning parking.

Public Comment of Joint Meeting: Mr. Rodgers asked about the \$200,000 that may be revenue made available to the town mentioned by Mr. McQuaid. Mr. McQuaid compared it to profits from CVS (which cost 2.5 million to build), could possibly equate to good revenue for the town. Mr. Rodgers questioned is it reasonable to assume that the T.C. Passios property will be worth 11 million dollars? His point was that this development was not a viable solution that would net a profitable amount. Reuse Committee stated that this was speculation at this point, as we do not know how a developer would look at this. Mr. Londa mentioned drainage for TCP from roofs currently runs under high school, back drainage would have to be accounted for. Mr. McQuaid's understanding was if a private developer acquired the property, they would have to handle drainage on site. Reuse Committee would do a cost benefit of all proposals received. Adjourned joint meeting at 7:40pm.

Chairs Report: Dr. Berthiaume did not have a chair's report as he had commented during the joint meeting.

Review and Approve Minutes: There were minutes presented for approval. All approved per the committee.

School Building Committee: Mr. Mackin relayed that everything was on schedule and no change orders had been presented. Next meeting on May 13 at 4:30 p.m. in the construction trailer and would include a tour of the construction site.

Review and Approve Warrants: Warrants were on the table for signature, no line item transfers were discussed.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Calmes reported that Town meeting will be on Saturday, and encouraged public attendance. Upcoming events for community to show support are the buddy bench dedication, "Guys and Dolls" performances, Empty Bowls Thursday night, Pops concert on May 15th. School Committee will meet again next week and will be televised. The Superintendent announced that the Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on PARCC at Fitchburg State University on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 from 3-6 pm. The Superintendent also shared information regarding the articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant from the

School Department. These include gas and electric easements for the new construction and revolving fund reauthorization.

Student Representative's Report: Ms. Holman was absent, and no report was discussed.

Old Business:

a. FY16 Budget Modifications & Vote: Superintendent Calmes clarified that there was a \$190,678 dollar difference between recommended appropriation for the school vs. town recommendation. Proposal presented by Superintendent Calmes as to how to possibly close this gap. First, \$100,000 decrease from line of unanticipated placements of special education. When unanticipated placements happen we will need to seek additional funding from the Town. The Town Manager indicated that other department have asked for assistance in funding unanticipated expenditures. Working with the building principals \$90,600 of instructional materials have been identified as high priority items that require purchase. Assuming last two students will graduate from Shirley, will have \$18,000 potentially to put towards LHS material funding. Projection of 11 students as choice for 2015-2016 school year, this equates to \$55,000 in funding. Suggestion given by Superintendent Calmes currently is to remove \$50,000 of materials from budget, and if those choice students enroll in the fall, can move forward with purchases. Superintendent Calmes recommended that to address the large class sizes that a THMS(4th grade) teacher's salary be funded by elimination of a paraprofessional position due to attrition and requiring a portion of the cafeteria program's health insurance be paid from the café fund. 40S funding of House , bid is at \$105 dollars less than quoted before. School choice receiving stayed same as governor's budget. Kindergarten grant back as part of House budget. If this is put in place, this could be the funding needed for a teacher at THMS in grade 6. Mr. Mackin commented that public could speak to representatives now in support of 40S and Kindergarten grant funding. Circuit Breaker being funded higher than in House 1 which would make a final difference as well. Superintendent Calmes discussed that with this newly projected budget they are now in riskier position as far as out of district placements as well as need of \$50,000 for materials. In this proposal they have protected AP programs at LHS, and prioritized materials needed for urgency. All funding was justified, but needed to make decisions and cuts and did not want to cut personnel. Dr. Berthiaume relayed that there will be no line item vote from the school committee until we know about state funding. This proposal will go to Town Meeting regardless of whether the School Committee votes at this time. Motion to vote on moving the proposed funds in budget recommended by the Superintendent. Mr. Mackin made motion, Ms. Shapiro seconded. **Vote: Unanimous** Public Comment by Mr. Luck- 40S funding not being used or needed? Dr. Berthiaume stated that this has not been allocated, so we cannot count on funding currently. Urgency is that we cannot wait on all funding in order to move forward with purchasing needed materials.

New Business:

a. Resolutions: Teacher Appreciation week, Nurses Day, and Bus Drivers Appreciation Day recognized. Dr. Berthiaume read to public all resolutions presented, and these were signed both by Superintendent Calmes and Dr. Berthiaume per approval from the rest of the school committee. All resolutions will be posted on the website.

b. Transportation Contract Renewal- Superintendent reminded the board that the school needed to change transportation providers previously due to bankruptcy. Have collected information to see how favorable current rate is and how it compares to other vendors. Pleased with current provider Dee Bus. Superintendent Calmes read comparable prices of other towns, ours is \$319. Fitchburg paying \$412, Leominster \$362, etc. Clinton has a local bus company, with more favorable pricing. Didn't do a comparative pricing estimate around sports transport. We are not the district with the lowest pricing, but we are on the lower end of the spectrum. Recommendation by Superintendent is to extend contract for another year. By July 1 we have to make a decision, and option to renew. Dee Bus would have the opportunity to rebid. Have already budgeted for this. Mr. Mackin made motion, Ms. Shapiro seconded to extend one year contract. Dr. Berthiaume asked if there was any downside to going out on bid at this point. Superintendent Calmes relayed that they don't seem to have a lot of bidders when this has been put out for quoting in the past. Discussion from school committee as to putting out for bid to see what savings might be, and bid for one year. School Committee decision that it was due diligence in order to do this. Motion withdrawn from Mr. Mackin. Not voting at this time to sign contract, and will move forward with putting out bus bids.

c. Amendment of FLLAC agreement- Wachusett withdrawn from collaborative. Voting to reflect change in FLLAC bylaws that states that Wachusett has withdrawn. Dr. Berthiaume asked if we expect FLLAC rates will increase due to withdrawal? Superintendent Calmes stated that this is always a possibility. Recommendation from Superintendent is to approve the amendment. Ms. Shapiro made motion to accept the amendment as proposed. Ms. Sroka seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**

d. Donations- Tennis Grant received to purchase items for THMS by Ms. Laserte for PE program. Received another grant from Wal-Mart community grant for \$1500. Mr. Belair had submitted the proposal for this. Funding will go to robotics program. Mr. Belair will purchase another robot & engineering supplies. Primary school received Hannaford Helps donation in the amount of \$441, \$297 received for THMS, \$477 received for LHS. Primary school received \$1102 in box tops, THMS received \$447.20.

Public Comment – Mr. Mackin thanked everyone for the topping off ceremony this morning. All students cheering and clapping as they raised the beams. Superintendent Calmes expressed appreciation to Shawmut for their assistance with this ceremony and for being so accommodating in holding 2 of the small beams from the elevator shafts out and painting them for the students to sign and use in this special ceremony. The last time the entire student body came together was 2005 before the new Primary School opened. Two student speakers did another fabulous job-Brendan Tobin and Lauren Basque. We received aerial photos of the ceremony that were shown on the scrolling screen by Superintendent Calmes and will be posted on Facebook.

Reports

- a. Finance Committee – Dr. Berthiaume reported they had not met.
- b. School Councils-Mr. Mackin reported that LHS council had met yesterday and adopted mission values, Mr. Mackin, introduced discussion of naming of new facility. Ms. Sroka reported the Primary discussion of naming took place as well-many people wanted Lunenburg in the name, discussed school start time-opinions as to not wanting to start school later due to bus runs. Ms. Sroka to ask opinion of council about starting earlier. Ms. Shapiro reported THMS met Tuesday and discussed budget recommendations of 4th and 6th grade teachers. Discussed school start time-discussion surrounding Primary possibly going earlier or later than time of LHS, discussed school improvement plan, formulated plan for potential renaming. Mr. Mackin asked about survey monkey for school start times. Superintendent Calmes discussed that if you are going to provide a survey, you have to have a specific proposal before you make public. Ms. Sroka reported they are working on goals at Primary school too.
- c. PTO- Ms. Shapiro reported that they are meeting Monday the 11th and voting on officers and new roles.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee- Dr. Berthiaume reported they are completed for now. Superintendent Calmes mentioned Mr. Londa working with Parks Dept. on energy direction next year and thinking about what to charge for field use. Policy now says we can charge but have not set any fees. Will need to address in upcoming policy. May be some state mandated changes in safety plans or emergency responses as well requiring policy changes.
- e. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Sroka reported meeting on Tuesday to make a process plan for capital planning for future consistency.
- f. Wellness Advisory- Ms. Shapiro reported the committee met yesterday. Discussed start times and there will be a student run health fair by 7th graders at THMS on June 10th in the morning. Relative to heart, awareness, smoking, drugs, exercise, nutrition, etc. They will have a survey for students prior to this on start times and will show results of this at the health fair. Will forward results to the school committee. Superintendent Calmes reminded everyone about Special Olympics.
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro reported last meeting was canceled. Next meeting next Friday
- h. Re-Use: Mr. Mackin reported will meet on next Monday.
- i. Transition/Reconfiguration-last meeting Mr. Londa, Mr. Adams and police officers and Mr. Jones attended an emergency response meeting. Lunenburg was the only community with all necessary parties in attendance. Each schools plan needs to be customized for that particular school. Will start development of emergency response process for each school. Will be meeting in summer. Mr. Santry has requested that the school council meet once a month due to transition planning.
- j. Diversity Advisory Committee- Superintendent Calmes reported that the committee has been appointed but they have not met yet. Schedule has gone out tonight by Ms. Hanscom to try and secure a date.
- k. Start Time Sub-Committee- Need to schedule next meeting. Ms. Shapiro reported that they had met this morning with Mr. Spadafino and Mr. McCauliff. Mr. McCauliff has spoken to district regarding moving game times. Does look positive.

Items for Future Discussion: Dr. Berthiaume asked about time for one to one computing.
Network director Josh Branham has resigned, and position has been posted.
Superintendent Calmes hoped to meet with Mr. Malandrinos tomorrow. After that Dr.
Berthiaume indicated they need to discuss the district improvement plan in future,

Adjournment – Mr. Mackin made a motion to adjourn regular session of the meeting at 8:45
p.m. Ms. Sroka seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen
Recording Secretary